

THE LINK

Keeping you in touch with Outwood, Stanley, Wrenthorpe and Alverthorpe Churches 28th February-7th March

Dear all,

There's a definite feeling of spring in the air! This Lent, Fr Jonathan and I have often been opting to sing morning prayer, rather than just saying it, and we've noticed that this week the birds have been joining in (or maybe they're competing). The warmer air, birdsong, and longer evenings all make it obvious that spring is well on its way.

Although we often think of Lent as a time of denial, in our hemisphere, it always falls in spring, and its English name is directly taken from the Old English word for "spring." That might seem a bit counter-intuitive, but of course Lent is also supposed to be a time of spiritual renewal - a "spring cleaning", you might say. At this time of year, people often comment that the renewed sunshine makes them notice that the windows need cleaning - and perhaps this Lent can play a similar role in the windows of our soul. Let's take some time to pray, reflect, and clean our spiritual windows.

Every blessing,

Rev'd Jo

Prayers and Readings for this Week

2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9.8-17
Psalm 25.1-9
1 Peter 3.18-end
Mark 1.9-15

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of
your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,

that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things
as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

3rd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 17.1-7,15-16
Psalm 22.23-end
Romans 4.13-end
Mark 8.31-end

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first
he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was
crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the
cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and
peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Upcoming Church Events

Outwood

2nd March – 4pm Lent Group
3rd March – 7:30pm Lent Group

Wrenthorpe

23rd February – 4pm Lent Group
24th February – 7:30pm Lent Group

Stanley

Mondays – 7:30pm Bible Study: The Lord's Prayer

Regular events online:

All our weekday online events are hosted on Zoom, either through the benefice's website's meeting rooms, or through a meeting login. For more information about how to join and how to use Zoom, please contact us.

Sundays

- 11am Coffee Morning on Zoom for St Anne's Wrenthorpe

Mondays

- 10am 'Start the Week – Drop in for Chat and Prayer' on Zoom
- 7:30pm St Peter's Stanley Housegroup on Zoom

Tuesdays

- 10am Coffee Morning for St Paul's on Zoom

Worship Online, on the Radio and on Television

Sunday Worship is broadcast on Radio 4 at 8:10am. Songs of Praise is broadcast on BBC1 at 1:15pm. The Church of England streams a service on YouTube every Sunday at 9am.

You can also join in with our church services online! We're showing them live on the churches' Facebook pages. If you don't have Facebook, you can still watch the services: type your church's name and 'Facebook' into Google, and click on the first link. The videos should be available to view during the service or after it has concluded.

The pattern for online services is as follows:

Sundays:

- 10am Parish Mass (St Mary Magdalene Outwood)
- 10am Parish Eucharist (St Anne's Wrenthorpe)
- 10am Holy Communion (from St Peter's and St Paul's on alternate weeks)
- 5:30pm Reflection

Mondays

- 9am Iona Morning prayer
- 5:30pm Evening Prayer (live from St Mary Magdalene's)

Tuesdays:

- 5:30pm Evening Prayer (St Mary Magdalene's and St Anne's) (no service on 8 December)

- 9pm Iona Evening Prayer (St Peter's Stanley)

Wednesdays:

- 9am Iona Morning Prayer (St Peter's Stanley)
- 9pm Sung Compline (St Mary Magdalene's and St Anne's)
- 9pm Iona Evening Prayer (St Peter's Stanley)

Thursdays:

- 5:30pm Evening Prayer (St Mary Magdalene's and St Anne's)
- 6pm Prayer for the Nation (St Mary Magdalene's)
- 9pm Iona Evening Prayer (St Peter's Stanley)

Fridays

- 9pm Iona Evening Prayer (St Peter's Stanley)

Saturdays:

- 12:30pm Midday Prayer (St Mary Magdalene's and St Anne's)

A Lent Pilgrimage with St George's College Jerusalem



This year, Fr Jonathan and Revd Jo are going to be leading a course from St George's College in Jerusalem called "A River Through the Desert." It's an opportunity to explore our faith using the physical features of the Holy Land. The course has videos from different parts of the Holy Land led by ministers from the college, and will hopefully be a bit more relaxing than Lent

courses sometimes are, as we journey on Zoom to the places where Jesus walked. We'll be running the course at 4pm on Tuesdays and 7:30pm on Wednesdays, beginning the week after Ash Wednesday (23/24 Feb). Please join in, and if you're able to make a donation to help the college's fundraising, please visit their JustGiving page:

<https://www.saintgeorgescollegejerusalem.com/giving/>

Good News from Around the World



Last week a Reddit user from the United States shared an unusual problem with the internet - she had accidentally created a crow bodyguard. She had read that you could make friends with American Crows by feeding them, and before too long she had fifteen crows who followed her around when she went outside, to the amusement of her neighbours. Unfortunately, the crows became very defensive of "their human", and started mobbing neighbours who tried to talk to her. Someone suggested asking the Audubon Society's advice, who suggested the neighbours feed the crows, so they became socialised to them. This worked so well the crows may have saved a life. One of the neighbourhood's oldest residents slipped and fell on the ice, unable to get up - but the crows raised the alarm and he was swiftly

found and rescued by those coming to see what the fuss was about. Saved by the crows!



By day, he's the vicar of All Saints Church, Belvedere in south-east London. By night, he's the gamer Vicarious BIG. Rev'd Simon Archer began streaming church services during the first lockdown for his congregation, like many clergy. But it soon expanded into streaming video games live too. Now he runs a webpage called the 'Church of Chat' where he answers people's questions, chats, plays video games, and yes, occasionally talks about God and his faith. You can learn more by watching the BBC's video about him here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-london-56159786>



IKEA is known for its distinctive Scandinavian design... but now a former IKEA store in Coventry will become home to new kinds of art and design when it is converted by Coventry City Council into one of the largest art spaces in the UK. The store closed in February 2020 after making losses for many years. Coventry is the 2021 UK City of Culture and this new facility will have space to display 16,500 items, as well as freeing up space in other Coventry museums, such as the Whitefields Monastery which is due for restoration. David Welsh, the cabinet member for

communities, said the move would turn the loss of the Ikea store "into a real positive for the city".



It could only happen in Canada! A farmer in British Columbia, Chris Paulson caught a lynx by the scruff of the neck when it attacked his chickens. He decided to show the world what had happened, and showed a video of himself with the animal. Soon afterwards he was telling the animal off and showing him the damage he had done, including killing two of the Paulson's new chickens. In the video Chris says, "Let's go see the damage you did, buddy," remaining impressively calm. "How many chickens did you get? You got some of our new ones, not good is it? No. I know it's not good. First the owl then you, eh!" Paulson said the lynx was clearly hungry, so he left the two chickens that had been killed for him. Lynxes weigh around 25 pounds and are threatened in North America. Farmers are allowed to shoot them if they threaten livestock in Canada, but we've now learned that picking them up by the scruff of the neck works just as well!

Visiting Churches



Our churches are open for visits at the following times:

Monday 4pm-5pm St Mary Magdalene's Outwood
Wednesday 12:30pm-1:30pm St Anne's Wrenthorpe
Saturday 2-3pm St Mary Magdalene's Outwood
Saturday 10-12pm St Paul's Alverthorpe

All our churches can also be visited by appointment

Wrenthorpe & Kirkhamgate Food Bank



Regular collection boxes for the food bank which serves Outwood, Wrenthorpe, Stanley and Alvethorpe are hosted in both St Anne's and St Mary Magdalene's churches. 72% of families with children who depend on foodbanks are in work, and the need for support is growing, especially in the current Covid-19 restrictions. Please bring non-perishable food and toiletries to church

when you are able to, and the boxes will be taken to the food bank as they fill up!

A Recipe from Mother Jo Kershaw: Three Treasures from the Earth

Fr Jonathan and I usually give up meat for Lent, which occasionally feels like a bit of a struggle, but it's also a good opportunity to try some new things. Recently I cooked this recipe from Northern China. The "three treasures" are aubergines, potatoes, and green pepper, served in a garlicky sauce - it's the sort of hearty, everyday food that's popular for everyday meals in Sichuan. It does take a little while to fry the vegetables, but it's all quite straightforward and tastes great. One of the pleasures of the dish is the contrast in texture, so it's worth taking a little while to get the potatoes crispy.

1 medium to large aubergine
1 medium potato
1 green pepper
2 garlic cloves (or to taste)
1 or two spring onions
2 tbs cornflour
Sunflower, vegetable, or peanut oil for frying

For the sauce
2 tbsp light soy sauce
1/4 tsp sugar
1/2 tbsp dark soy sauce
1 tsp cornflour
1 tbsp dry sherry (optional)
3 tbsp water



Chop the aubergine into cubes and soak for fifteen minutes in a bowl of lightly salted water.

Mix together the sauce ingredients.

Quarter and slice the potato, and cut the pepper into bite sized pieces. Slice the garlic and spring onion.

Pour about 3 cm of oil into your wok or a deep frying pan (or a sauce pan, at a pinch), and heat over a medium flame. NB - don't use non-stick pans for frying at high temperatures, as it can affect the coating - a stainless steel saucepan is actually a better choice at this stage.

Fry the potato until crispy - remove from the pan and put on a plate with kitchen roll to drain.

Drain the aubergine and dry it with kitchen paper, squeezing out as much moisture as possible. Fry until golden (depending on your pan size, this may be better done in two batches). The aubergine will probably soak up a lot of oil as it fries, but it will release it again as it cooks. Remove from pan and set aside.

Pour most of the oil into a heat-proof container, turn the heat up high, and drop in the pepper, frying vigorously until the skin blisters.

Reduce the heat and add the garlic and spring onion to the pan, frying gently until they become aromatic.

Add the sauce and bring up to the boil, stirring constantly. Add the potato and aubergine and turn in the pan until coated.

Serve at once, with rice.

St Peter's Stanley Bible Study

This is a Bible study course held via Zoom, based on the Lord's Prayer and concentrating on the theme of 'prayer'. The zoom link for this course is <https://northwakefield.benefice.uk/ruth-mws-zoom-page/> which is Ruth's zoom link. This course will take us up to the beginning of Lent; it's not too late to get involved.

Diocese of Leeds Lent Reflections

The Wakefield Episcopal Area within Leeds Diocese has organised for a series of reflections to take place through Lent on Fridays at Noon,

beginning 19 February. Please email Caroline caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org for the zoom details if you'd like to join – all welcome! These reflections will be recorded for those who cannot join us at these times. They will be available afterwards at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvnxg6p0I5vUTWe9H-klJpw>

RIP

Please remember and pray for those who have died recently whose funerals will be led by members of our clergy team, and others from the local community.

Alverthorpe – Ian Hirst, Richard Barnes, Pat Goodwin, Ron Churm, Elizabeth Wilkinson, Sarah Louise Clark, Sandra Bedford, Melvyn Crump
Outwood – Annie Sheppherd
Wrenthorpe – Emma Carter, Elizabeth Peaker, Betty McGarroch

Getting help with COVID-19

The current advice from the NHS if you feel ill is to stay at home. If you cannot cope with your symptoms and you're seriously ill call NHS 111. There is a local hotline for Covid-19 support. If you can't get out for things you need and you don't have any friends, family or support available within the community, help is available. Call: 0345 8 506 506 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Choose option 3 to make a request for support and help will be arranged.

Staying in touch with each other

It's hard to cope with being alone or not seeing many people for a long period of time, and everyone struggles. If you want a chat, you can call any of the vicars in this team. Leave your numbers so we can keep in touch too!

Outwood: Fr Jonathan (01924 373758/
frjonathanbish@gmail.com)

Wrenthorpe: Rev'd Jo (01924 373758/
revdjokershaw@gmail.com)

Stanley & Alverthorpe: Rev'd Glenn (01924 218484/
cogginsglenn@gmail.com)

Keeping you entertained!

From CartoonChurch

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE VICAR IS ON
'THOUGHT FOR THE DAY'



PEOPLE SHE HOPES ARE LISTENING



THE BISHOP



ALL HER SOCIAL
MEDIA FOLLOWERS



A TV TALENT SCOUT

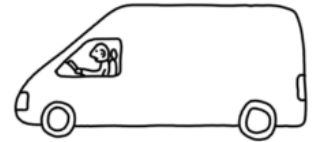


HER MUM

PEOPLE WHO ARE ACTUALLY LISTENING



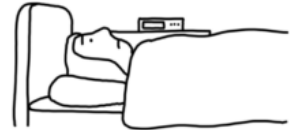
SOMEONE DOING
THE WASHING UP



A DELIVERY DRIVER



A TENNIS FAN WITH
TUNING DIFFICULTIES



AN INSOMNIAC USING THE
RADIO TO GET TO SLEEP